

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 33, 36-38, 43, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Good et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,571,256. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants have amended claims 33 and 43 to clarify the position of the support rail where cited in Applicants' claimed subject matter. Unlike the slide support brackets 52 of Good, which are mounted alongside the pair of support channels 14a and 16a, as well as 14b and 16b,² the support rail of Applicants' claimed subject matter is at least partially interposed between the front and rear vertical rack members, as best illustratively shown by Figs. 7 and 9, in which support rails 46 and 50 are shown interposed between rear vertical rack members 110 and front vertical rack members 134. Thus, the support recess in Applicants' apparatus is at least partially interposed between the front and rear vertical rack members, unlike the alleged support member recess of Good, which is entirely inward of the support channels 14a-b and 16a-b.³ For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 36-38 and 44 depend from allowable claims 33 and 43 and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 34-35, 39, and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Good et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,571,256, in view of Fall, U.S. Patent No. 3,712,690. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 34-35, 39, and 45-46 depend from allowable claims 33 and 43 and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Additionally, Applicants note that the Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to combine the three part telescoping rail assembly of Good with the four-part dual telescoping rail assembly of Fall "in order to have the rail assembly that has at least one channel members constitutes a part of the intermediate element of the slide structure to improve the resistance to the vertical bending stress."⁴ However, the rail assembly as recited by Good already *has* an intermediate channel section, thus the motivation to combine fails. Intermediate section 50 of the three part slide mount assembly 42a is a channel member, and thus apparently provides the structural benefits attributed by Fall to such members, providing structural support for the end section 48 even when extended. For these additional reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Even further, the Office Action asserts that "the second telescoping rail (40) when mounted to the support rail (44), it would prevent the second outer rail from extending beyond the pair of the vertical rack members because the second outer rail is fixed to the support rail."⁵

² Figs. 1, 3.

³ Fig. 1.

⁴ Paper 26, p. 6.

⁵ Paper 26, p. 6.

As best as Applicants can interpret this assertion, the Office Action appears to assert that if the outer rail 40 of the outer telescoping rail assembly of Fall were mounted to the support rail 44 of Good, then the outer rail 44 would not move. While Applicants do not necessarily disagree with that hypothetical assertion, Applicants point out that mounting the dual telescoping rail assemblies 40-60 of Fall to the support rail 44 would still allow the outer telescoping rail assembly 40 and 55 to extend bar 55 longitudinally, beyond the support channels 14a and 14b of Good, thus the assertion that the second telescoping rail of Fall "cannot extend beyond the pair of vertical rack members" fails. For this additional reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 40-42 and 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Good et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,571,256, in view of Fall, U.S. Patent No. 3,712,690, and further in view of Fall et al. 3,687,505. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 40-42 and 47-48 depend from allowable claims 33 and 43 and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

CONCLUSION

The prior art made of record, but not specifically cited, is not believed to disclose any significant information that is not sufficiently discussed in this Response.

It is respectfully submitted that all issues and rejections have been adequately addressed and that all claims as amended and pending following entry of this Response are now allowable and that the case should be advanced to issuance. If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss the claims as amended, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned or David R. Clonts at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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ATTACHMENT A**Clean Version of Pending Claims (as of February 17, 2003)**

33. (Once Amended) A mounting system for a computer component rack, the computer component rack having a pair of vertical rack members on a side of the computer component rack, positioned at a front and a back of the computer component rack, the mounting system comprising:

a support member, comprising:

a support rail, at least partially interposed between the pair of vertical rack members and recessed outwardly, forming a support member recess at least partially interposed between the pair of vertical rack members when the support member is attached to the pair of vertical rack members; and

a telescoping rail assembly, mountable to the support rail within the support member recess, such that a portion of the telescoping rail assembly is recessed outwardly within the support member recess.

34. The mounting system of claim 33, the telescoping rail assembly comprising:

a first telescoping slide rail, mounted to a computer component enclosure for mounting the computer component enclosure within the computer component rack; and

a second telescoping slide rail, mounted to the first telescoping slide rail and mounted to the support rail within the support member recess.

35. The mounting system of claim 34, wherein the second telescoping rail cannot extend beyond the pair of vertical rack members.

36. The mounting system of claim 33, further comprising:

an enclosure recess formed in a side of a computer component enclosure for mounting within the computer component rack, the enclosure recess extending inwardly into the computer component enclosure;

wherein the telescoping rail assembly is mountable to the computer component enclosure within the enclosure recess, such that a portion of the telescoping rail assembly is recessed inwardly in the enclosure recess.

37. The mounting system of claim 36, wherein the enclosure recess extends vertically from a bottom of the computer component enclosure.

38. The mounting system of claim 36, wherein the enclosure recess has a recess height, the recess height being no more than one half a height of the side of the computer component enclosure.

39. The mounting system of claim 36, the telescoping rail assembly comprising:

a first telescoping slide rail, mountable to the component enclosure within the enclosure recess; and

a second telescoping slide rail, mounted to the first telescoping slide rail and mountable to the support rail within the support member recess.

40. The mounting system of claim 33, wherein the telescoping rail assembly has a height approximately one half of a height of the support rail.

41. The mounting system of claim 40, wherein the telescoping rail assembly is mountable within an upper half of the support rail.

42. The mounting system of claim 40, wherein the telescoping rail assembly is mountable within a lower half of the support rail.

43. (Once Amended) A computer component rack mounting system, comprising:

a pair of vertical rack members on a side of a computer component rack, positioned at a front and a back of the computer component rack;

a support member, comprising:

a support rail, at least partially interposed between the pair of vertical rack members and recessed outwardly, forming a support member recess at least partially interposed between the pair of vertical rack

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members when the support member is attached to the pair of vertical rack members;

a computer component enclosure, adapted for mounting within the computer component rack; and

a telescoping rail assembly, mountable to the support rail within the support member recess and mountable to the computer component enclosure, such that a portion of the telescoping rail assembly is recessed outwardly within the support member recess.

44. The computer component rack mounting system of claim 43, the computer component enclosure comprising:

an enclosure recess formed in a side of the computer component enclosure.

45. The computer component rack mounting system of claim 44, the telescoping rail assembly comprising:

a first telescoping slide rail, mountable within the enclosure recess; and

a second telescoping slide rail, mounted to the first telescoping slide rail and mountable to the support rail within the support member recess, such that the second telescoping slide rail is recessed outwardly within the support member recess.

46. The computer component rack mounting system of claim 45, wherein the second telescoping slide rail cannot extend beyond the pair of vertical rack members.

47. The computer component rack mounting system of claim 43, wherein the telescoping slide rail assembly is mountable within either an upper half or a lower half of the support rail.

48. The computer component rack mounting system of claim 43, wherein the telescoping slide rail assembly has a height no more than one half of a height of the side of the computer component enclosure.

49. (Withdrawn from consideration) A method of mounting a computer component enclosure, comprising the steps of:

recessing a first portion of a telescoping rail assembly between a pair of vertical rack members of a computer component rack; and

recessing a second portion of the telescoping rail assembly within a recess of a computer component enclosure;

extending the first portion of the telescoping rail assembly between the pair of vertical rack members when extending the computer component enclosure; and

extending the second portion of the telescoping rail assembly exterior to the computer component rack.

50. (Withdrawn from consideration) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of:

mounting the first portion of the telescoping rail assembly to one half of a support rail recessed within and attached to the pair of vertical rack members.

51. (Withdrawn from consideration) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of:

forming the recess within one half of a side of the computer component enclosure.

ATTACHMENT B**Marked-Up Version Of Amended Claims (as of February 17, 2003)**

33. (Once Amended) A mounting system for a computer component rack, the computer component rack having a pair of vertical rack members on a side of the computer component rack, positioned at a front and a back of the computer component rack, the mounting system comprising:

a support member, comprising:

[a pair of attachment members attachable to the pair of vertical rack members; and]

a support rail, [positioned] at least partially interposed between the pair of [attachment] vertical rack members and recessed outwardly, forming a support member recess at least partially interposed between the pair of vertical rack members when the support member is attached to the pair of vertical rack members; and

a telescoping rail assembly, mountable to the support rail within the support member recess, such that a portion of the telescoping rail assembly is recessed outwardly within the support member recess.

43. (Once Amended) A computer component rack mounting system, comprising:

a pair of vertical rack members on a side of a computer component rack, positioned at a front and a back of the computer component rack;

a support member, comprising:

[a pair of attachment members, attachable to the pair of vertical rack members; and]

a support rail, [positioned] at least partially interposed between the pair of [attachment] vertical rack members and recessed outwardly, forming a support member recess at least partially interposed between the pair of vertical rack members when the support member is attached to the pair of vertical rack members;

a computer component enclosure, adapted for mounting within the computer component rack; and

a telescoping rail assembly, mountable to the support rail within the support member recess and mountable to the computer component enclosure, such that a portion of the telescoping rail assembly is recessed outwardly within the support member recess.